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RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6048
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 9244
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2105
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1006
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RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0119
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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION DARFUR/NEPAL - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Monday morning's Asahi front-paged a story saying that the GOJ is considering the establishment of a new organization for crisis management modeled on the US National Security Council to enhance the GOJ's ability to deal with terrorism and natural disasters.

11. "Bring an End to the Human Crisis" The liberal Asahi editorialized (5/7): "...A faint hope has emerged regarding an end to the civil war in Darfur, as officials from the Sudanese government and the largest anti-government force signed a peace agreement following talks in Nigeria mediated by the African Union (AU). Although the end of April had been the deadline for concluding the negotiations, AU leaders, as well as Deputy Secretary of State Zoellick and European representatives, extended the deadline and pressed the anti-government representatives to compromise. Restoring peace in Darfur is essential to bringing an end to the human crisis. The support given by the international community to the AU, which mediated the dispute, is laudable.... While the AU's basic stance of having Africans resolve African problems is understandable, the human crisis in Darfur is clearly more than it can handle. The United Nations and the international community must extend more of a helping hand."

12. "Ask the People Whether They Want a Monarchy" An editorial in the liberal Asahi commented (5/8): "Order has finally returned to Nepal. Massive demonstrations had been held since April in Katmandu and elsewhere in protest of the king's authoritarian rule, with clashes between demonstrators and security forces resulting in the deaths and injuries of many. Despite the imposition of a curfew in the capital, more than 100,000 took to the streets at one point, converging on the royal palace. King Gyanendra was forced to abandon direct rule...."

There were fears that the fissures would deepen and the bloodshed increase if the king continued to reject negotiations. We are glad that the worst-case scenario has been avoided for the time being.... The lower house of parliament quickly elected former Prime Minister Koirala as the nation's new premier.... Koirala has called on Maoist rebels to disarm and participate in constitutional parliamentary elections. The participation of the Maoist rebels, who occupy more than half of the nation, is key to restoring order.... The Maoist rebels are calling for the abolition of the monarchy. Opinion within major political parties is divided over whether Nepal should be a constitutional monarchy or a republic. In drafting a new constitution, the Nepalese people should be consulted regarding the nation's future political system, including the continuance or abolition of the monarchy."

DONOVAN